

(Translation)

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>K-83CARBIDE</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. <b>PCT/JP03/08597</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>07.07.2003</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>08.07.2002</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>Int. Cl. 7 G09F13/04</b>		
Applicant <b>Nippon Carbide Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand <b>19.12.2003</b>	Date of completion of this report <b>20.08.2004</b>
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ <b>Japan Patent Office, 4-3, Kasumigaseki 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915 Japan</b> Facsimile No.	Authorized officer <b>Naoki MATSUKAWA</b> Telephone No. <b>03-3581-1101 Ext.3264</b>

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/08597

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

the international application as originally filed

the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the claims:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the drawings:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

the drawings, sheets/fig. \_\_\_\_\_

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/JP03/08597

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: WO 98/53348 A1 (Thomas H. McGaffigan), 26 November, 1998 (26.11.98)

Document 2: EP 1136847 A2 (Nippon Carbide Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha), 26 September, 2001 (26.09.01)

Document 3: JP 9-291280 A (Toshiba Corp.), 11 November, 1997 (11.11.97)

Document 4: WO 99/04604 (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co.), 28 January, 1999 (28.01.99)

## Claim 1

A retroreflective, internally illuminated sign in which a large number of prismatic retroreflective elements are arranged in close contact with each other to form a continuous, retroreflective plane whose retroreflecting part on the back has no banded part with other layers, is neither disclosed in any of the documents cited in the International Search Report, nor is self-evident to a person skilled in the art.

## Claims 2-9

All of the inventions as described in Claims 2-9 are dependent on the invention as described in Claim 1. Hence, similarly to the invention as described in Claim 1, they are neither disclosed in any of the documents cited in the International Search Report, nor are self-evident to a person skilled in the art.